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Petition of Horace Greeley Wade

Soldiers were paid bounties, usually \$300, for enlisting to fight in the Civil War. After the war, many volunteers had not received the bounties owed them. In some cases, the problem arose because unscrupulous recruiters had convinced the often illiterate volunteers to sign part of their bounty over to them. Charles Engley, cited in this petition, was a very active recruiter, and become known for stealing from his recruits' bounties.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island at the January Session, A.D. 1866

The undersigned Horace Greeley Wade of the town of Jefferson in the county of _____ in the state of Ohio respectfully represents,

That he is faithfully served in Company M, in the 14th regiment of Rhode Island Volunteers otherwise known as the 11th Regiment, U.S. (colored) Heavy Artillery, and was honorably discharged therefrom; that he was recruited at Buffalo in the state of New York by John Myonie who represented himself as having authority from some person duly authorized by the State of Rhode Island, to recruit for said regiment; that he was by a recruiting officer at Buffalo promised a bounty of three hundred dollars if he would go to Rhode Island, and enlist in said regiment, that being induced by said promises, he did leave his home then go to Rhode Island and did enlist in said regiment; that he has not received the bounty which was promised him, but is only received, as bounty, from the state of Rhode Island, the sum of two hundred dollars; that he paid his own expenses to Rhode Island; that he received at Camp Smith, Providence the sum of twenty five dollars; that he received at Camp Bailey, Dutch Island the sum of fifty and seventy five dollars; and that afterwards at Camp Parapet Louisiana received the sum of fifty dollars; and there is now therefore due him the sum of one hundred dollars; that he never signed any contract to accept any bounty less than three hundred dollars; and that he is unable to write his name or to read writing.

At Providence he was asked by major J.C. Engley how much bounty he expected from the State of Rhode Island; he replied three hundred dollars, the same that was promised him at Buffalo and the same as offered in the advertisement there distributed. For the fifty dollar Bounty paid at Camp Parapet a check was given by him for the purpose of transferring the amount to his wife for her use, said check was delivered to the said Commissioner and he declares that his wife has never received said money but that the same has been paid to the Allotment Commissioner to some other person - he

has since seen said check at the office of said Commissioner which they told him had been paid, the check was shown to me by major Stanford.

Wherefore he prays that the said sum of one hundred dollars maybe paid him to him by the order of this Honorable Assembly, and that such other relief may be granted him as your Honors shall seem meet.

And he, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Witness
witness someone
Isaac Pitman

Horace Greeley X (his mark) Wade his mark

State of Rhode Island &c.,
City and County of Providence on this 28th day of December A.D. 1865, personally came the above Horace Greeley Wade and made solemn oath that the statements contained in the foregoing petition by him subscribed, are true.

Before me, Isaac Pittman
Justice of the Peace

[The stamp at the lower left is a revenue stamp. Revenue stamps were used to raise money to pay government debts during and following the Civil War.]

This primary source comes from the Rhode Island State Archives, Petitions Received, 1725-1890, C#00165.

